



Town of Darien

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Darien Health Department Policy and Protocol for Town Beaches

The Darien Health Department is responsible for collecting bathing beach water samples, monitoring rainfall events, updating the 24-hour phone number (656-7323) with the area(s) status, and notifying the Darien Parks and Recreation Department and the CT DPH, when it becomes necessary to “close,” or it is acceptable to “reopen,” the Town bathing areas located at Pear Tree Point and Weed Beach.

The Darien Health Department will take immediate action (within one hour) to “close” the bathing area(s), including verbal notification to the Darien Parks and Recreation Department, when any of the following conditions occur:

- ◆ One inch or greater of rainfall occurs during a rainfall event as determined by the Darien Health Department. Rainfall shall be measured for a 24-hour period, but continuous rain for a period of greater than 24 hours will be accumulated and considered as one rain event as per the State of CT Department of Public Health.
- ◆ Bathing water bacterial sample results are determined by the Darien Health Department to be elevated above acceptable levels for swimming/bathing for two consecutive sampling days.
- ◆ A pollution event has occurred, including but not limited to releases of sewage, oil or other chemicals, or a toxic algal bloom, that by the determination of the Health Department after consultation with the CT State of Public Health may pose an unacceptable risk to public health.

The Darien Health Department will notify the Darien Parks and Recreation Department that it is acceptable to “open” the bathing area(s) when any of the following conditions occur:

- ◆ More than 24 hours has passed since the end of the most recent rainfall **event** of greater than or equal to one (1.0) inch. *No calls from the Health Department are required when reopening after a rainfall event only. This determination may be made independently by the Parks and Recreation Department.*
- ◆ Water sample results after subsequent retesting are within the acceptable criteria for reopening as assessed by the Health Department.
- ◆ Sufficient time has passed after a pollution event (not limited to sewage, oil, chemical or toxic phytoplankton) as determined by the Health Department together with the CT State of Public Health, that any risk to public health has been minimized.

Responsibilities of the Darien Health Department:

1. Monitor and record all rainfall event amounts.
2. Collect bathing water samples and assess results.
3. Verbally contact the Darien Parks and Recreation Department within one hour whenever the status of the bathing area(s) must be changed, and follow-up with written notice.
4. Update the 24-hour phone recording at 203-656-7323.
5. E-mail the Darien Library
6. Provide a written report to the State Department of Public Health by FAX.
7. Notify the media and nearby Health Departments as necessary for unusual events requiring closure.

Responsibilities of the Darien Parks and Recreation Department:

1. Close the bathing area(s) immediately, within one hour, upon notification from the Darien Health Department. Closure includes changing the flags/signs at the beaches and may include notification to the Lifeguards.
2. Reopen the bathing areas as soon as possible, automatically 24-hours after a rainfall event of ≥ 1.0 " ends, and/or when notified by the Health Department. Reopening includes changing the flags/signs at the beaches and may include notification to the lifeguards.
3. Waterfront Parks and Recreation Staff will call the Stamford Beach Hotline on weekends and holidays to determine if closures are necessary and enact closures if Stamford has closed their beaches during such times.

Stamford 24-hour beach hotline: (203) 977-5889 (ext 3)

Norwalk 24-hour beach hotline: (203) 854-7919

Responsibilities of the Darien Department of Public Works:

Immediately, within one hour, verbally notify the Darien Health Department of the occurrence of a release of sewage, oil, or other chemicals and follow-up with a copy of the written report that is sent to the CTDEP as soon as possible.

Note: Pollution events occurring after 10:00 PM may be called in as soon as possible after 8:00 AM the next day.

The information will be assessed by the Health Department and a determination may be made to "close" the bathing area(s).

Darien Bathing Beach Closure Contact List:

Contact is to be made verbally, within one hour, then followed up by written notice (email is acceptable).

Darien Health Department

David Knauf, MPH, MS, RS Director of Health

Cell : 203-246-8225 – primary contact number.

Office: 203-656-7324 Office FAX: 203-656-7486

E-mail: dknauf@darienct.gov

Elaine Kilbourn, Health Department Administrator

Office: 203-656-7320 - Main # Office FAX: 203-656-7486

Cell: 203-249-1620

Home: 203-323-7177

E-mail: ekilbourn@darienct.gov

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Office: 203-656-7322

Work cell: 203-246-4982

Home: 203-449-8086

Email: bbogle@darienct.gov

Darien Parks and Recreation Department:

Jim Coghlan

Cell: 203-223-3781

Office: 203-656-7327

FAX: 203-656-7380

Home: 203-333-2633

E-mail: jcoghlan@darienct.gov

Sue Swiatek

Cell: 203-223-3780

Office: 203-656-7381

FAX: 203-656-7380

Home: 203-431-6146

E-mail: sswiatek@darienct.gov

Main office: 203-656-7325 Business hours.

Darien Department of Public Works:

Pat D'Arinzo, Jr.

Cell: 203-515-3002

Office: 203-656-7332 or 655-0133

Fax: 656-7485

Home: 203-322-0404

E-mail: pdarinzo@darienct.gov

Fred Micha

Cell: 203-943-0543

Office: 203-655-0133 or 655-7219

Fax: 656-7485

Home: 203-877-5283

E-mail: fmicha@darienct.gov

Darien Library: jsgammato@darien.lib.ct.us

CT Department of Public Health: Phone: 860-509-7296 FAX: 860-509-7295

Local Contacts:

Darien Police Department:

Marine Police: 203-856-5019-cell Officer Chris Knight

Main number: 203-662-5300

FAX: 203-662-5381

Norwalk Health Department: Office hours: 203-854-7776, after 5:00PM: 203-856-3648

FAX: 203-854-7934

Lab phone: 203-854-7867 FAX: 203-854-7926

Public Works: 203-854-7791 WPCF: 203-854-3212 WPCF Fax: 203-854-9802

Norwalk 24-hour beach hotline: 203-854-7919

Stamford Health Department: Office: 203-977-4399 DOH, or 977-4362

FAX: 203-977-5882, or 977-5506, or 977-5963

Lab: 203-977-5843, or 977-4378, or 977-5842 contact is Joe Kunz

Public Works/WPCF: 203-977-5809 FAX: 203-977-5081

Stamford 24-hour beach hotline: 203-977-5889 (xtn 3)

Media: The media may be notified during unusual situations.

Darien Times: editor@darientimes.com

Darien News: mgordon@bcnnew.com

Norwalk Hour: pr@thehour.com

Stamford Advocate: 203-964-2200

Darien Patch

Darien Health Department 24-hour beach/shellfish hotline: 203-656-7323

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